

## Junior cadet gets heroism medal for accident response

CARLSBAD, Calif. – A Palmdale youth graduating from the Army and Navy Academy here next month has been awarded the Department of the Army Medal for Heroism for his actions in helping victims of a fatal automobile accident nearly 18 months ago.

David Ortiz, 18, a senior cadet at the Carlsbad-based academy, was presented the medal for “outstanding and heroic performance” while providing emergency medical treatment to victims of a Dec. 31, 2003



Courtesy Photo

**Cadet David Ortiz (left) receives the Department of the Army Medal for Heroism from retired Army Brig. Gen. Stephen Bliss.**

accident near his hometown, Palmdale, Calif. Ortiz was home on winter break, visiting his parents, Rafael and Babette Ortiz.

After arriving at the accident scene, Ortiz climbed into an overturned automobile to administer first aid

to one of the trapped victims. Despite the threat of fire and injury from jagged metal and broken glass, the cadet stabilized the bleeding and wounds of the driver and then attempted, unsuccessfully, to reach another trapped victim in the car. After emerging from the vehicle, he administered first aid to another critically injured passenger lying on the street, until help finally arrived.

Presenting the medal during a weekend academy ceremony was ANA President and retired Army Brig. Gen. Stephen Bliss, and Board of Trustees Chair Neil Nydegger.

“Cadet Ortiz’s actions that day exemplify the values taught by both the Army and Navy Academy and the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and reflect great credit upon himself as well as the Army and Navy Academy and the United States Army Cadet Command,” Bliss said.

Located on a 16-acre oceanfront campus in Carlsbad, Calif., the Army and Navy Academy is a private not-for-profit institution that provides an academically robust, character-based education for 7th through 12th Grade young men. The 340-plus cadets come from 13 states and 18 foreign countries.



Photo by Al Zdarsky

### Attention to Orders ...

**FORT LEWIS, Wa. – Maj. Gen. W. Montague Winfield (left) reads a Legion of Merit award citation in August honoring Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Ferguson, command sergeant major for Western Region. Ferguson received the Legion of Merit on the occasion of his retirement, effective Jan. 1, which culminates a 30-year Army career. Ferguson stepped out of his position Sept. 29. Victor MercadoRivera will become Western Region’s new command sergeant major.**

## ROTC programs hit hard as twin hurricanes ravage U.S.

**By Jeremy O’Bryan**  
*Western Region Public Affairs*

Just as cleanup was under way in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama were still discovering the extent to which their lives have been interrupted and changed, Hurricane Rita brought more rain and the threat of destruction to the region.

Thousands affiliated with Army ROTC were displaced from their homes due to the two storms – some permanently – and some high schools may not reopen until late this school year.

“In New Orleans alone, 19 instructors at eight high schools – and more than 2,500 students – are

affected,” said David Reagan, chief of Junior ROTC operations for 8th Brigade headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Other schools in areas outside the city like Slidell and Gretna, may reopen in as soon as a few weeks, he said.

Reagan drove to Louisiana shortly after the Hurricane Katrina passed to see firsthand the effects the storm had on the programs within his purview and to offer whatever help he could.

“Some schools in New Orleans are still underwater,” Reagan said Sept. 19, “and may not be open until spring. Once the water recedes, there’s still thousands of downed trees and power lines.”

See **Hurricanes**, Page 8

# CSM models – and cadets live – Warrior Ethos

By Col. Steven Corbett  
Commander, Western Region

Welcome to another great year in the Western Region! As the school year begins, I want to welcome our new cadre members, cadets and civilian employees to your new adventure as troopers in Cadet Command.

Our summer training this year was some of the very best on record: from the dozens of Junior Leadership Camps to the mega-challenge of Warrior Forge, all of you worked very hard, learned a lot, and now stand ready for the next phase of your education.

This was a summer of transition for Western Region as well. Command Sgt. Major Lewis Ferguson is retiring after more than 30 years of service to our Army – almost six of them as the Region CSM.

The contributions and influence of this stellar noncommissioned officer are far too numerous to recite here, but there is one point that must be made. CSM Ferguson was the key trainer and planner as the Warrior Forge Command Sergeant Major. Under his wise and expert eyes, over 25,000 Senior ROTC Cadets were trained at Fort Lewis.

Let me put this another way – 60 percent of the lieutenants and a quarter of the captains serving in America's Army today have benefited directly from the service of this man. They are his legacy, and as he and his family enter the next phase of their lives, they do so knowing that our soldiers and our nation are in the hands of junior officers trained by CSM Lewis Ferguson.

2005 will always be known as the Year of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As our nation labors to recover from these horrific events, it is sometimes difficult to find good news.

However, we have cadets and cadre from the affected areas working hand-in-hand as volunteers to help people, to clear



debris from their towns and schools, and to put their own lives back together.

The ROTC departments at Tulane University and dozens of high schools in southern Louisiana were derailed. They'll be lucky to begin their purposed efforts in the Spring – if they ever do.

However, the spirit of our Nation and our Army remains steadfast. Students continue their educations, and the pursuit of their futures. As an example, the cadets of Tulane University have been enrolled at universities across the nation, as far away as the University of California-Berkeley.

These young men and women are continuing their educations, and living the Warrior Ethos: They are not accepting defeat, and they aren't quitting. They will achieve their dreams of an education and succeed in their mission: to become lieutenants in the finest Army in the world. To all of them, our cadre and to the thousands of other cadets and families left in the wake of the hurricanes, we all offer our support, thoughts and prayers.

*Train To Lead!*

## Congratulations to best in command

### PMS of the Year

Lt. Col. Donald Lash Jr.  
University of Richmond  
Eastern Region

### Instructor of the Year

Maj. David Wise  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Western Region

### Recruiting Operations Officer of the Year

Maj. Chuck Adkins  
University of Arkansas  
Western Region

### Brigade Counselor of the Year

Capt. Cory Ramsey  
12th Brigade  
Western Region

### Human Resources Administrator of the Year

Hoa Weidle  
University of Richmond  
Eastern Region

### Supply Technician of the Year

Cindy Ruth Brinkley  
University of Kansas  
Western Region

### JROTC Instructor of the Year (officer)

Retired Col. James Methered  
Dr. John Horn High School  
Mesquite, Texas  
Western Region

### JROTC Instructor of the Year (enlisted)

Retired 1st Sgt. John T. Kehler  
Carroll High School  
Ozark, Ala.  
Western Region

### Civilian of the Year (GS 9-11)

Anthony Prouix  
6th Brigade  
Eastern Region

### Civilian of the Year (GS 5-8)

Hellen Clair  
7th Brigade  
Eastern Region

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**Col. Steven R. Corbett**

Commander

Western Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command

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Public Affairs Officer – Bob Rosenburgh

Editor, Deputy PAO – Jeremy O'Bryan



## Army opens new battalion at Stout

**Cadet Luke Sivertson**  
*University of Wisconsin–Stout*

MENOMONIE, Wis. – The Army ROTC program officially began at the University of Wisconsin-Stout during a contracting ceremony on Sept. 8. The program at Stout is a partnership program with the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. The university's three largest programs are business administration, the arts, and engineering technology – it's known as an arts and engineering school throughout the University of Wisconsin system.

The newly assigned Professor of Military Science, Lt. Col. Scott Bolstad, spoke briefly before a gathering of cadets, faculty, and administrators of the university.

"For 114 years the University of Wisconsin-Stout has produced leaders in the arts and sciences, and especially in the field of industry. It is time for Stout to begin producing military leaders as well. This is the first time Army ROTC has been established on the Stout campus, and the faculty and staff are excited to have it here."

Dr. Robert Meyer, dean of the College of Technology, Engineering, and Management, said America

"sorely needs leaders who possess strong values."

"I can't think of a better way to produce these leaders than ROTC," Meyer said.

Meyer noted that the American Flag hanging in front of the college since Sept. 11, 2001, was the flag used for the ceremony. "I am extremely proud to have Army ROTC on campus," Meyer said. "I got misty eyed at the ceremony when they talked about the flag. The faculty has sons and daughters who are serving overseas. It is emotional for all of us and we are very proud."

Dr. Peter Heimdahl, the associate dean of CTEM and Dr. Hugh Williamson, General Business Administration Program Director, both retired Army officers, said they are proud of the students who have agreed to serve and make sacrifices. Like Meyer, they're glad to see ROTC on campus.

"It is a win-win situation for both the university and Army ROTC – and it is an outstanding opportunity for our young men and women," Williamson said. "We think highly of the ROTC cadre and we are lucky to have them here."



Photo by Al Zdarsky

**Major Gen. W. Montague Winfield addresses cadets from the 13th Regiment and others in attendance at the unit's graduation from Warrior Forge at Fort Lewis. Winfield took command of U.S. Army Cadet Command in July.**

## Cadet Command has new CG

**By Jeremy O'Bryan**  
*Western Region Public Affairs*

Major Gen. W. Montague Winfield assumed command of Cadet Command in July from Maj. Gen. Alan Thrasher, who moved to the Pentagon to become the Army's deputy inspector general.

Winfield comes to Cadet Command after serving as commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii. Thrasher moved to the Pentagon to become the Army's deputy Inspector General.

Winfield was the keynote speaker at a Warrior Forge regimental graduation ceremony at Fort Lewis in August, where he addressed hundreds of graduating cadets, plus cadre, staff and family members.

"These young men and women are focused, intelligent and possess the drive and enthusiasm necessary to become superb leaders," he said. "The Cadet Command leader development program is clearly working."

Shortly after taking command, the general explained his command philosophy in a message to his organization's cadre and staff.

"My command philosophy is simple and straight-forward," Winfield said. "It revolves around four tenets designed to take Cadet Command to the next level of excellence.

"First, do what's right in every activity – all the time. Doing what's right engenders the trust of the American people, whom we ultimately serve. Second, excel in all our operations. Our cadets deserve the best leader development program in the world and it is the job of every member of this command to ensure that our product – the Army lieutenant – is fully prepared to lead.

"Third, target improvement. When we seek continuous improvement, we instill the highest sense of responsibility; cadre and cadets alike must never settle for second best in anything. Finally, care the most. When we take care of our limited resources – funds, equipment, time, but especially each other – we set ourselves up for success.

"In Cadet Command, we train to lead, we commission, and we live the Army Values. In our hands rests the important task of preparing the next generation of leaders."



Photo courtesy UWSP News Service

## Modeling Leadership

Retired General Colin Powell addresses cadets from the Pointer Battalion at University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point in the Spring of 2005. Powell was keynote speaker at the school's Laird Youth Leadership Day. The conference, held every two years and attended by local high school students, is designed to inspire young people and help them develop leadership skills.

# USM cadets turn out to clean up after Katrina

## Field Report

University of Southern Mississippi

HATTIESBURG, Ms. – Several cadets from the University of Southern Mississippi's Golden Eagle Battalion deployed to southern Mississippi to support disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Cadet Brian McMullan went to Bay St Louis, Waveland, Picayune and Carrier. He conducted patrols to maintain security on major road networks and distributed ice, water and MRE's to impacted citizens. He said that this experience "helped him to understand that material things are not important." He said he met some very desperate people during his deployment, but overall most were very grateful and courteous.

Cadet Paul McInnis was mobilized with HQ Det (1) 2-20 SFG, Jackson and went to Bay St Louis. With his special forces unit, he conducted search and rescue missions with Zodiac boats and also distributed water to affected

citizens.

Cadet John Ferrell was mobilized with the 113th Military Police Company. He was deployed to Gulfport and Laurel. He and his unit augmented local police operations with patrols within affected areas. He was involved in detaining looters and provided security for local businesses and hospitals. He also assisted with traffic control and search and rescue.

Cadet Valerie Jones was mobilized with 367th maintenance Co Philadelphia where she provided maintenance support for vehicles and equipment utilized in search and rescue as well as disaster relief operations.

Cadet Brad Freeman was mobilized with 1/204th ADA from Bay Springs, MS. He was deployed to the Gulf Coast to provide traffic control and assisted in all facets of disaster relief operations. He said "the people were courteous and grateful. It was an experience that will last a lifetime."

LaToya Walker was mobilized with 184th Transportation Command

Element in Laurel. She preformed administrative duties at the National Guard armory in Laurel in support of disaster relief operations. She assisted in maintaining communications for the headquarters and worked with the personnel management section for the headquarters.

Cadet Matt Bayless was mobilized with the 890th EN BN in Gulfport. He worked in communications section in the Tactical Operation Command at the 890th EN BN and was instrumental in maintaining communications networks for the battalion that was critical to disaster relief operations.

Cadet Joshua Bishop was mobilized with the 185th G Co., Meridian. As an aircraft mechanic, he maintained National Guard aircraft crucial to search and rescue efforts.

Cadet Terrance Taylor was mobilized with the 1387 QM Company. As a logistician, Cadet Taylor's expertise was instrumental in the operation of troop life support locations. He also assisted with operating food and water

supply points on the Gulf Coast in support of both assisting troops and victims.

Cadet Darrell Coffey is a member of the South Central Chapter of the Red Cross. Before, during and after Katrina he helped to ship supplies to shelters in Purvis, Wiggins, and Stone County. He stocked water and disturbed items at the Purvis Red Cross Shelter and assisted the Red Cross Chapter in disaster preparations.

Cadets Sedrick Jackson and Cliff Clary were mobilized with the 647th Transportation Company. In support to relief operations, both cadets were stationed at the New Orleans airport to distribute food, water and other disaster relief supplies. They also assisted cleanup operations in the greater downtown New Orleans area.

Cadet Carl Patterson was performing active duty for special work with the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry in Biloxi. As a unit member, he assisted in the cleanup efforts and removal of debris in the affected areas.

## Ole Miss student-Soldiers support hurricane relief effort

### Field Report

University of Mississippi

OXFORD, Miss. – More than a dozen Ole Miss cadets were called to support disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

As members of the Simultaneous Membership Program, these student-Soldiers are ineligible to deploy to Iraq in support of the Guard's federal mission, but they are allowed to serve on active duty at the governor's call for state emergencies. Most volunteered for the effort, not knowing how long they may be needed on the Mississippi coast. For many, it may mean missing a semester of college and delaying the start of a promising career.

"I don't care if I miss a semester," said junior Russell Scott, a criminal justice major from Pontotoc. "I have to do what I can to help Mississippi recover. I called my National Guard unit and asked if they needed me." Scott's selflessness is not unusual among his ROTC classmates. By noon on Friday, Sept. 2, thirteen Ole Miss Army ROTC cadets had left campus for duty near Biloxi and Gulfport. Although most cadets were released quickly to return to school, three stayed on the coast for a week.

Cadet Jake Todd, a senior insurance and risk management major from Henderson, Ky., found the experience rewarding.

"Those people had so little – they had nothing. They still tried to give us what they had to thank us for being there," Todd said. "People were trying to keep their food from rotting so they would cook for us at night. One guy boiled shrimp for us."

Todd went to the Mississippi towns of Picayune, Poplarville, Diamondhead, and Bay St. Louis to help distribute food, water, and ice. He said all of the people he encountered were gracious and appreciative. "Everywhere we went there were people waving at us and giving us thumbs up."

Cadet Seth Davidson, a senior marketing major from Grenada, Miss., said the Mississippi coast looked like a war zone.

"I went to check on one of my friends who is from (the Gulf Coast) and his whole street was just flattened," Davidson said. "Every house I saw had major damage." Davidson, who worked out of Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, said his unit's mission was to locate shelters for refugees who had come through FEMA's office there.

Cadet Jay Johnson was stationed



Courtesy photo

**Cadet Jay Johnson, a senior at Ole Miss, stands in the rubble left behind by Hurricane Katrina. He was stationed in Gulfport to assist with clean-up efforts right after the storm.**

at the Crossroads Mall in Gulfport. A senior business major from Natchez, Johnson commented on the media's coverage of the disaster.

"I was really isolated from any media. Coming back and seeing they way it is being covered, shows me that

people really cannot understand the magnitude of the damage. Every single building had some kind of damage. It looked like an atomic bomb had been dropped in the middle of it. It will never look the same," Johnson said.

Johnson said there were convoys of trucks everywhere, there were people lined up at gas stations for miles and his unit was forced to drive off the road to get around debris in the middle of the interstate. "It really felt and looked like a military occupation," he said. "It was weird seeing something like that in America."

Lt. Col. Joseph Blackburn, the professor of the military science program at Ole Miss, directed that his cadre stay in contact with the students and with their Guard unit commanders.

The university, like most universities, makes provisions for students who are called to duty with the National Guard. If a deployed Guardsman must leave mid-semester, her or she may begin another semester anew without any academic penalty. For shorter tours of a few days, the university works with the faculty to accommodate the student's absence and allow him or her to re-enter their classes with as little difficulty as possible.



# Iowa cadets host triathlon

By Cadet Calvin Shadden

University of Iowa

IOWA CITY, Iowa – What took months of planning and a grueling Saturday beforehand for setup finally came to be. On Sept. 18, the University of Iowa Army ROTC in conjunction with the TriHawks, the University of Iowa's student triathlon club, put on the first annual "Troops and TriHawks Triathlon."

The event took place just north of Iowa City at Coralville Lake, a property controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers. With this event, the University of Iowa became the third Big Ten Conference School to host a triathlon.



Courtesy photo

Cadets Shane Hunt, Lyndsay Larson and Jaclyn Adams took 1st Place in their own battalion's inaugural triathlon. The cadets, along with a local triathlon club, plan to continue holding the event.

More than 340 athletes registered to compete in the triathlon, and 296 finished the event. A majority of participants were from the Midwest, but also included people from other Big Ten schools as well as from other countries as far away as Zimbabwe.

Included in these competitors were a number of members of the Iowa ROTC program.

Cadets Jackie Adams, Shane Hunt, and Lindsay Larson took first place in the military and collegiate relay division.

Cadets Tadashi Abe and Mark Lucas competed as individuals and finished with respectable times.

Lt. Col. Randall Millers, U of I professor of military science, also participated, completing the 500-meter swim portion of the relay for his team

Running the 5-kilometer on our headlining relay team was Capt. Clay Schwabe, a member of the Army World Class Athlete Program and a three-time U.S. Track and Field National Finalist, ran the 5-kilometer

"That was the hardest 5k section of a triathlon I have ever run," Schwabe said. "It was very well managed," and "I had a lot of fun."

The event helped put Army ROTC into the community's eyesight, and developed a relationship we can be proud of with another respectable student organization. The proceeds from the event will be used to pay off costs and boost the coffers for next year's event, while some will be split between the Army ROTC cadet fund and the TriHawks.

The next "Troops and TriHawks Triathlon" is tentatively scheduled for the third Sunday in September 2006.

## KU supply tech wins at Army

Field Report

University of Kansas

LAWRENCE, Kansas – A Jayhawk Battalion staff member has won the Chief of Staff of the Army's Supply Excellence Award for 2005 in a worldwide competition. Cindy Brinkley was honored in May in Washington D.C. for earning the distinction.

Brinkley, a retired Army supply sergeant from Fort Riley, has been working with the University of Kansas ROTC program for three years. She supports about 70 cadets who are enrolled in the her battalion's program, including students from KU, Baker University in Baldwin City, Washburn University in Topeka, Haskell Indian Nations University in

Lawrence, University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth and MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe.

"This award says to me that I must be doing my job right," said Brinkley. "But my true reward is seeing our cadets grow and mature to become the best commissioned officers in the U.S. Army."

Brinkley's road to the top began when her commanders nominated her to compete for Cadet Command's 2005 Supply Excellence Award. She initially won the competition against more than 270 other supply operations serving 1,500 universities. As Cadet Command's "Best of the Best," she moved to the next level of competition at the Training and Doctrine Command before competing at Army level.



Courtesy photo

Freshman cadets joining Notre Dame's Fightin' Irish Battalion gathered, along with some family members, before the start of school for an orientation to ROTC. The new cadets were given a preview of what to expect as they begin their affiliation with the "best college course you can take."

## Fightin' Irish freshmen get first glimpse of ROTC

By Cadet Corrie Brisson

University of Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – In mid-August, while most college students enjoy their last weeks of summer, the Fightin' Irish Battalion here is already hard at work preparing for one of its most critical training events of the year.

Freshman Orientation, or "Frosh-O," is a weeklong event designed to welcome new students and their families to college life, and introduce them to Army ROTC basics. It is an intense week of training that includes combatives, Military Operations in Urban Terrain familiarization, Field Leaders Reaction Course, basic marksmanship, static displays, rock walls, individual movement techniques, Army communications, first aid, grenades, night vision devices, and camouflage.

During the week, cadets are able to get an idea of what ROTC is like and begin to come together as a class before the school year even begins.

Frosh-O is planned and executed by cadre and cadet upperclassmen, and according to 2nd Lt. Terry Brown, Gold Bar Recruiter, "sets the tone for cadets as they begin the long journey to becoming leaders of character and ultimately successful officers."

Freshman Jim Bramanti went through Frosh-O and said he was impressed by the battalion as a whole. He expected to learn about ROTC basics, but found that the week of orientation also taught him a great deal about the kind of training Notre Dame Army ROTC strives to achieve.

"We were shown that the Notre Dame ROTC program is not simply one in which cadets are taught basic skills they need to know," Bramanti said. "It is a multi-faceted program where cadets are given the opportunities to practice the leadership skills they learn. The men and women in charge of the program make sure that their cadets get plenty of experience."

New cadets are not just fitted for uniforms and put through introductory classes; rather, they begin their training with team building and practical exercises from day one. Cadets and their families are not only welcomed to a new school and ROTC program, but they are welcomed into a family as the newest members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

*What's going on in your battalion? Get the word out! Call us today at (253) 967-7473.*



### Franklin cadets earn bucks

LOS ANGELES – The Panther Battalion at Ben Franklin HS in Los Angeles, Calif., raised more than \$700 for the American Red Cross in the spring of 2005. Following last year's tsunami in southeast Asia and a later visit to their school by a Red Cross official, the cadets were compelled to give. They planned and carried out a walk/run event, combining physical training with humanitarian relief to earn sponsorship money for disaster victims worldwide.

### Rifle team earns 1st

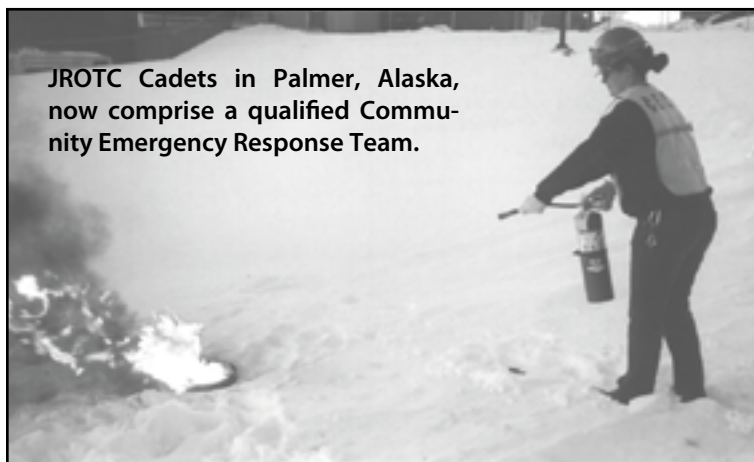
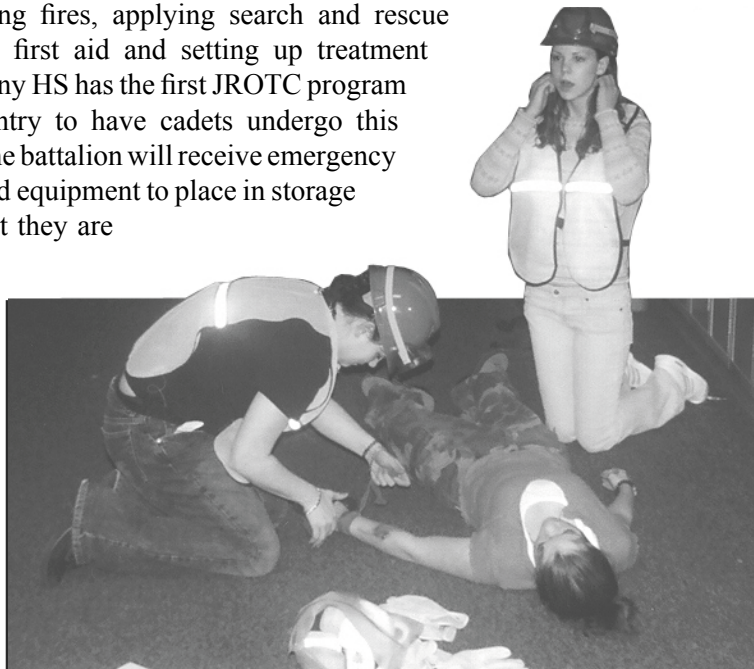
SPARKS, Nev. – The Spanish Springs High School JROTC Cougar Battalion participated in the Nevada State High School Rifle Championship and the Nevada State Junior Olympics in Carson City, NV. At both events, held in the spring of 2005, the team won first place, earning them a state championship in both events. Over the past four years, the battalion has gone from regular 0-12 seasons to undefeated.

### JCLC a success in southwest

GLOBE, Az. – Four southwestern high schools made a 16-hour road trip to Fort Sill, Okla., during Spring Break 2005 to participate in a JROTC Cadet Leadership Camp. Cadets were up early, training in CPR, water safety, drilling, team development, and general Army familiarization. They ran through the confidence course and ropes course, and visited the PX and dining facility. Students from Globe HS in Globe, Ariz.; Palo Verde HS in Blythe, Ca.; Red Mountain HS in Apache Junction, Ariz.; and Skyline HS in Mesa, Ariz., took part in the training.

### Alaska students to the rescue

PALMER, Alaska – Cadets from Colony HS completes 16 hours of Community Emergency Response Team training last year – now they're a CERT Team certified by the Federal Emergency Management Administration and local officials. Cadets learned how to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks and assist emergency response personnel. The training included identifying safety hazards, controlling and extinguishing fires, applying search and rescue techniques, first aid and setting up treatment areas. Colony HS has the first JROTC program in the country to have cadets undergo this training. The battalion will receive emergency supplies and equipment to place in storage in the event they are needed to respond.



JROTC Cadets in Palmer, Alaska, now comprise a qualified Community Emergency Response Team.

### Who's Who highlights Instructor

LONG BEACH, Calif. – Chief Warrant Officer Edward Govan, senior military instructor at Long Beach Polytechnic HS in Long Beach, Calif., is named in the 9th Edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers. The honor is bestowed upon teachers who take the time to lead, inspire and demand excellence from their students. Teachers are selected by students who themselves qualified for Who's Who placement. Govan has been a JROTC instructor for five years.

### Instructor is top volunteer

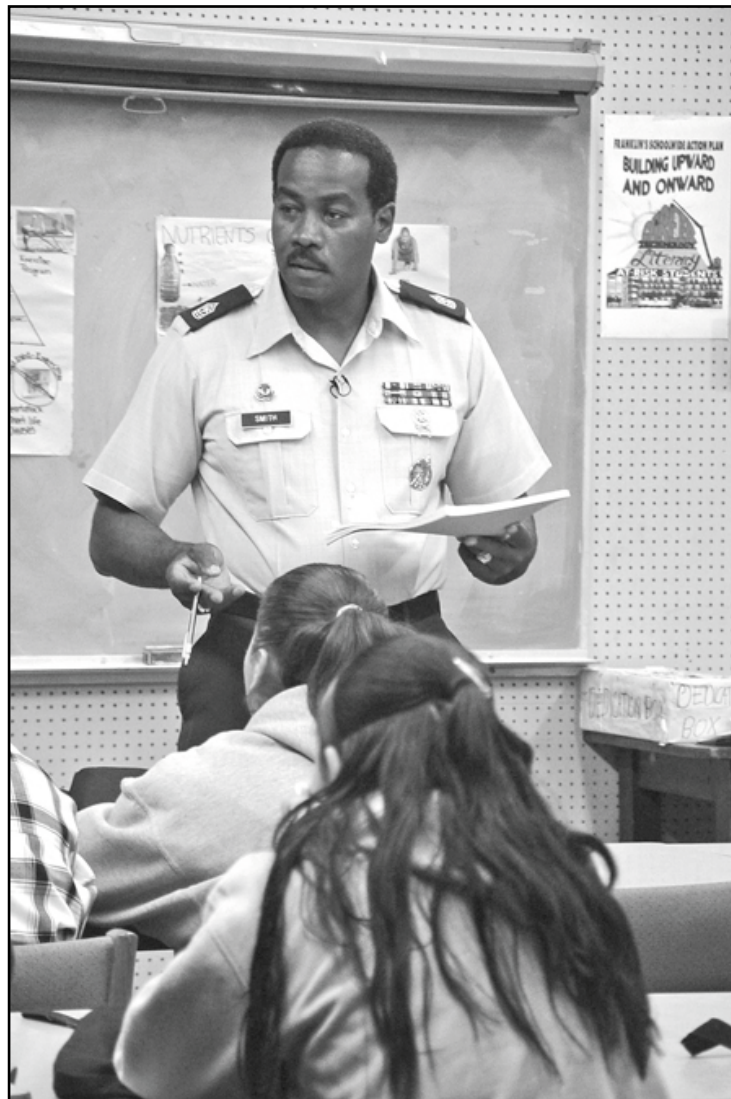
FREDERICKTOWN, Mo. – Maj. Mike Stearley, senior military instructor at Fredericktown HS in Fredericktown, Mo., since 1995, has been selected as the 2004 Volunteer of the Year by the Southeast Area Special Olympics Committee.

### Students collect food, backpacks

FORT WORTH – Students at Trimble Technical High School, Fort Worth, Texas, along with the Tarrant Area Food Bank and one of our Adopt-a-School sponsors conducted a canned food drive for elementary school children who depend on school meals for their primary nutrition. Many of the students gave money for backpacks or cans. Even the teachers participated and donated backpacks. The food and backpacks were donated to elementary school children who are at risk of being hungry on the weekends.

### First sergeant is teacher of year

LOS ANGELES – First Sgt. Larry Smith, senior military instructor at Ben Franklin Senior HS was named Troops to Teachers Teacher of the Year by the State of California. Smith has been teaching since 1996 and at Franklin since 2000.



California Troops to Teachers Teacher of the Year, 1st Sgt. Larry Smith, senior Army instructor at Ben Franklin Senior High School in Los Angeles, Calif.



# PERFECT PRACTICE makes perfect



## Lake Charles junior cadets aim toward senior programs

By Cadet Rita Harrison  
Washington-Marion Magnet HS

LAKE CHARLES, La. – Like college-level ROTC cadets, the Chargin' Indians Battalion here regularly participate in serious training – from land navigation to the leap of faith, these cadets face up to their fears.

After school and on weekends, junior cadets at Washington-Marion practice field training exercises, low and high ropes courses, water safety training, rappelling, and a field leaders' reaction course at Camp Beauregard. Each activity tests the physical and mental strength of each cadet and their ability to work as a team to complete a mission.

### FTX

During our field training, which we call a "Raider FTX," each Raider must learn the basic map-reading and land navigation skills necessary to navigate a team through an unknown area to locate specific points, and there are many water obstacles to cross. We learn how to build rope bridges and how to live without creature comforts. We learn the importance of safety and hydration. In all, we spend two days in the woods building trust, confidence and proficiency in four teams. At the end of each FTX, we embark on a 5.7-mile ruck march back to our starting point.

### Water Safety

The Raider Team goes swimming every year to double-check our swimming ability prior to going on our canoe trip in June. This year, we learned how to make a flotation device using a BDU shirt. It was totally new to us, but we had fun learning this new skill.

### Obstacle Course

Dry Creek is a professionally designed obstacle course with low and

high ropes courses. The giant teeter-totter and the trust fall on the low course helps build team confidence and trust. The high ropes course is suspended way above the ground. It tests individual confidence. You start climbing at one end and work your way up the tower. At the tower you're hooked to the "zip line" and off the tower you go – for about 60 yards.

### Rappelling

We rappelled this year with the cadets at Natchitoches Central HS. Most cadets were scared to death when they got to the top of the rappelling tower. A couple even chickened out at the last minute, but the ones who did rappel looked like professionals.

### LRC

Our battalion uses eight of the 14 stations on our Leadership Reaction Course. Teams are assigned to stations and can't proceed until they complete their mission – to negotiate the station crossing as quickly and safely as possible. All the stations are above water, so messing up usually means getting wet.

### Community Service

When we're not doing physical or tactical training, we're supporting our community and our school. We volunteer in activities that benefit the area around Lake Charles. Recently, we have helped build homes for low-income families with Habitat for Humanity and provided color guard for school games and civic events.

The range of activities we engage in at our battalion are similar to those done by Senior ROTC cadets at colleges and universities around the country and make us ready to face whatever might come our way.

*(As this issue was going to the printer, Hurricane Rita was bearing down hard on Lake Charles – Ed.)*





# TWIN HURRICANES HAMMER SOUTHERN U.S.

## Hurricanes, from Page 1

The Senior ROTC program was hard hit by Hurricane Katrina as well – Tulane University was evacuated altogether, its president and staff moving to the school's Houston, Texas, campus to establish a sort of command post.

The 48 cadets of the Orleans Battalion at Tulane, comprised of cadets from Tulane and several other area colleges and universities, won't be attending class there this semester, said Master Sgt. Alex Taylor, 8th Brigade operations and training NCO.

While a few Orleans Battalion students are taking a leave of absence from school and ROTC, most want to ensure they don't miss any military science credits – so they're relocating.

Cadet Jessica Thompson, a 23-year-old nursing student and a senior from Our Lady of Holy Cross, would be an MS-IV at Tulane this year, but she elected to transfer all her credits to Troy University in Alabama.

"I could have started up again at Tulane in the spring, but I'd be behind," Thompson said. "I didn't want that."

Thompson was born and grew up in New Orleans. She said her condo received only slight damage, but her father lost all of his home on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. Her family is currently spread across the southern U.S., from Dallas to Florida, and they only recently were able to contact one another by cell phone.

Although Thompson hates to leave her home behind, she's looking toward the future.

"Troy is taking my word about the classes I've taken, until I can get transcripts," she said. "I'll get to graduate in May, on schedule."

According to Tulane University's web site, the campus remains closed to students, faculty, and staff, although inspection and repair work has begun on some buildings. Once security and safety issues have been resolved, said university officials, reentry to the campus will be permitted.

Tulane's president, David Cowen, said he hopes Tulane can resume academic programs by the spring semester.

Hurricane Rita inflicted less damage on those in its swath. Trees and power lines -- in addition to standing water -- seem to be the biggest problem in the 12th Brigade. Some junior and all senior programs that suffered the storm will reopen this week.

"We were very fortunate," said Maj. Alfred Silva, 12th Brigade recruiting operations officer. "The reports from our senior program are all positive."

Half of the brigade's junior programs which were thought to be at risk – 21 of 42 – have reported no significant damage or loss. (Others schools are reporting at press time. –Ed.)

Silva said that when they found Rita was headed their direction his brigade coordinated lessons learned with 8th Brigade headquarters.

Cadet Command officials are committed to taking care of its cadets and cadre, most of whom don't have the convenience of living near a military base.

"Ensuring that both cadets and cadre from the areas affected by these storms are taken care of is a top priority for this command," said Col. Radames Cornier, Cadet Command chief of staff. "I'm very proud of the many individual cadets and Army ROTC units from across the nation involved in activities designed to assist those in need."

"The manner in which our Junior ROTC cadets have responded is particularly noteworthy and demonstrates the citizenship and character-building aspects of our program. Their tireless efforts in working with local communities to help storm victims is just one more example of the quality of the young people associated with Army ROTC."

## Soldier-Cadets mobilize to support Katrina aftermath

By Cadet Christina Carde

Northwestern State University

NATCHITOCHES, La. – The big storm that started out as "just another hurricane scare" turned out to be just that – the scariest hurricane in our nation's history. Hundreds of thousands of New Orleans' citizens weathered the storm in their homes, many losing those homes and their very lives to the waters surrounding the famous city below sea-level. With the dreaded calm after the storm, came the countless destitute and indigent residents of New Orleans, desperate for help and calling to anyone who would hear them. That call was answered with the one of the largest mobilizations of National Guardsmen in Louisiana's history.

Among these mobilized guardsmen were the cadets of Northwestern State University's ROTC, who just a week prior had begun a new school year and taken their next step towards a commission in the U.S. Army. Within hours of the call to duty, these future officers exchanged their bookbags for a battle dress uniform, and teamed up with their Guard units, ready to put their Soldiering and leadership skills to the test.

"We were stationed in a car garage near the Superdome, and were responsible for guarding equipment, food and leading people to the dome," said Cadet Danita Green, headquarters platoon, 2228th Military Police Company, Pineville, La., who is also in her 3rd year of ROTC at NSU. "There were so many people, each with their individual crisis and the numbers just kept growing. We all worked 15 to 20 hours with very little sleep just trying to help everyone in need. The situation was almost helpless."

As the hours turned into the days and waters continued to rise, more and more evacuees began to spread from New Orleans to the North, as far as Baton Rouge, Lafayette and even Houston, Texas.

"Our unit provided security for buses on their way to Houston, medical treatment for the sick and guards for the social security office in Baton Rouge," said Cadet Gerardo Montes, A Troop, 108th Calvary Company, Natchitoches, La.. "At any given time you could see five to 800 people outside the social security office many waiting from 6 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m., in the hot sun and humidity just for any type of public assistance."

"Many of these people were old, sick or mothers with small children and infants," Montes added. "We had several incidents where people would pass out due to heat exhaustion while waiting in line. Most of

these were elderly people, diabetics and pregnant women."

Despite the hot sun, long hours and overflowing number of people in need of every resource imaginable, one cadet said that for him, it was more than just a duty that needed to be done.

"All of my family is from the New Orleans area, so this was also a personal issue for me," said Cadet Scott Harold, officer in charge of security operations at the Social Security Office in Baton Rouge, with A Troop, 108th Cav. Co., who presently has 15 of his family members from New Orleans residing in his Natchitoches home. "Naturally as a cadet, I wanted the crisis to be over as quickly as possible so I could get back to school, but it was good leadership experience."

"Instead of putting NCOs or other Soldiers in charge of the operations in Baton Rouge, the cadets were put in charge," Harold added. "Other cadets, along with myself, took charge and got control over a situation that was out of control when we arrived."


NSU Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. Teresa Galgano said that as an instructor she didn't want her students to miss class or be in harm's way, but as a Soldier, she knew the cadets were receiving an invaluable training experience.

"Even though the hurricane was a huge disaster for the state, it provided a learning environment for the cadets that you can't get in a classroom," said Galgano. "These cadets who will soon be officers were not only helping people in need but they were also involved in making history."

Unfortunately, many times the sacrifices of the country's men and women go unrecognized. For the cadets in Baton Rouge however, this was not the case.

"I have never seen a more outstanding, first-class group of individuals than the cadets I saw here at this office assisting with the hurricane relief," said Raymond Pease, assistant director of fraud and recovery, Department of Social Services, Baton Rouge.

"They took the lead right away to get the job done and showed tremendous leadership to the junior soldiers. They are exceptional individuals and will make fine officers. We need more like them."



**For more on  
the hurricanes,  
see Page 4**